



National Sporting Library & Museum NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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SUMMER 2013

Benefit Polo Match Weekend Celebrates Country Life

The National Sporting Library & Museum (NSLM) hosted the Benefit Polo Match and Luncheon on September 15, 2013, a spectacular day at the Virginia International Polo Club in Upperville. This popular event was expanded to include a number of activities celebrating country life. B. Tim and Michelle Brookshire served as Event Chairmen; Jacqueline Mars, as Honorary Chairman; and Ann Nitze, as Host Committee Chair.

The festive fund-raiser included an elegant luncheon under a tent, a Ladies Hat Contest and an exciting NSLM Polo Cup match. The afternoon also featured a performance by the Washington Scottish Pipe Band and a parade of the Piedmont Fox Hounds. Excitement prevailed on both sides of the field with several carloads of spectators tailgating during the game.

The game began at 2:30 p.m. with avid horseman and polo player Neil Agate announcing. The teams were Beverly Polo represented by Bill Ballhaus, Doug Barnes, Juan Sanchez and Cote Zegers and Right at Home with Wendy Andrews, Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Tano Vial and Fernando Asenjo. Beverley Polo won 12 – 10. Juan

Sanchez was named Most Valuable Player. Five-year-old Pasarela was awarded Best Playing Pony and delighted the crowd by munching carrots and apples while being presented the winning blanket. Excellent photographs of the match by Douglas Lees can be seen on www.nslm.org.

The winners of the Ladies Hat Contest were Cora McGowan, Texas, first place; Elizabeth Clyde, Texas, runner-up; Queenie Kemmerer, Virginia, third place. A gorgeous Anna Weatherley-designed cachepot was the award. The judges were internationally prominent designer Anna Weatherley, Hunt Country's well-known jewelry maker Elizabeth Locke and Ann Nitze.

Pre-match Events

This special NSLM weekend



Photo by Douglas Lees

Best Playing Pony Pasarela delights the crowd

began with a public lecture and book signing by Brough Scott, MBE, a jockey and writer whose latest book is *Henry Cecil: Trainer of Genius*. Scott is the grandson of General Jack Seely, author of *Warrior: The Amazing Story of a Real Warhorse*, whose cavalry portrait hung in the Museum as part of the NSLM exhibition *Munnings*:

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Upcoming Symposium “Perspectives on Teaming with Nature” Features Major Leaders November 16, 2013

There is a long tradition of viewing nature as both resource and partner among people who engage in equestrian, angling and field sports. Recent National Sporting Library & Museum exhibitions have explored Izaak Walton's ideas on the contemplation and celebration of nature; the emergence of the artist-naturalist; and the 19th century intersection between field sports and the evolution of conservation.

On Saturday, November 16, 2013, the NSLM is presenting a symposium called “Perspectives on Teaming with Nature” that continues the tradition by exploring 21st century opportunities and challenges. The symposium features acclaimed leaders who are deeply engaged with the natural world in their respective fields: scientist and conservationist Thomas E. Lovejoy; art historian Eleanor Jones Harvey; conservationist, historic preservationist and ethicist Gerald Adelmann; and artist, writer, naturalist and conservationist James Prosek. Participants will be able to learn how these leaders have creatively “teamed” with nature in art history, conservation, science, historic preserva-

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Ann Nitze, Anna Weatherley, Elizabeth Locke

Benefit Polo Match

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Out in the Open.

Several wonderful weekend events were organized for sponsors and premium ticket holders leading up to the game. There were visits to private estates, including a working Thoroughbred farm, and a special tour of the NSLM Munnings exhibition which drew close to 5,000 people during its six month run. There was a presentation of books from the NSLM Rare Book Room. Highlighting the special events was a private reception with a performance by the Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Choir.

"We are pleased to be able to provide these exciting opportunities," said Executive Director Melanie Mathewes as the group toured the Thoroughbred barns and listened to



Rose Marie Bogley (right) hosted a luncheon at her home. Joining her at the table are Event Chairmen B. Tim Brookshire and Michelle Brookshire with Tyler, Texas, friend Elizabeth Clyde (second from the left).

experts talk about breeding and raising the impressive animals. There was a guided visit to early hound kennels undergoing restoration and a lovely luncheon on the veranda and lawn of another historic estate. Event Chair Michelle Brookshire described these estates as "some of

the most beautiful and extraordinary properties in Virginia's horse country." The special events leading up to the Benefit Polo Match and Luncheon supported the major fund-raiser by celebrating country life through the warmth and hospitality of NSLM members.



2013 Polo Match & Luncheon

The NSLM is very happy to have had support for its annual polo event from across the nation.

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Symposium

continued from page 1

tion and the visual arts. There also will be an opportunity to learn how to build broader awareness within one's own community, especially in museums and educational settings.

Brief descriptions of the speakers highlight their originality and contributions to contemporary thinking.

Scientist and conservationist Thomas E. Lovejoy is an innovative and accomplished conservation biologist who coined the term "biological diversity." He is the University Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University and currently holds the Biodiversity Chair at the Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment based in Washington, D.C. Among his many achievements, Lovejoy developed "debt-for-nature" swap programs, led the Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems project and founded the popular TV series "Nature." Lovejoy's extraordinary achievements as a scientist and policy advisor demonstrate that the 19th century tradition of effective public and private partnerships continues today.

Art historian Eleanor Jones Harvey is a senior curator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Among her research interests are 19th- and 20th-century American art and landscape painting. She is the award-winning author of several works on 19th century art, including most recently, *The Civil War and American Art*, which accompanied her eponymous exhibition. While looking at how various artists portrayed the war and its impact, Harvey demonstrated that fine art painters such as Frederic Church were profoundly influenced by the work of contemporary naturalists and that "geographical and meteorological metaphors were a common language for comprehending the violence of the war and its uncertainty."

Conservationist and historic preservationist Gerald Adelmann is President and CEO of Openlands, Chicago, Illinois. He helped to create the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the first federal land designation of its kind.

There now are more than fifty in the United States. Adelmann has also been involved in conservation and historic preservation projects in China since the early 1990's. He is chairman of the Center for Humans and Nature which partners with some of the brightest minds in ethical thinking to explore relationships and responsibilities. Adelmann's pioneering work in building creative partnerships demonstrate how a variety of interests and concerns can find common ground.

Artist, writer, naturalist, and conservationist James Prosek, made his artistic and authorial debut at nineteen years of age with *Trout: an Illustrated History* (1996). Prosek has written for The New York Times and National Geographic Magazine and won a Peabody Award in 2003 for his documentary about traveling through England in the footsteps of Izaak Walton, seventeenth-century author of *The Compleat Angler*. His study of eels has been the subject of a "Nature" documentary. While working in the 19th century artist-naturalist tradition of travel, study and illustration, Prosek has provided fresh insight including his reconsideration of trout taxonomy.

The afternoon presentations will focus on "Teaming with Nature" within our own lives and communities. Lisa Roberts is an educator, writer, curator, artist and planner. Her career has focused largely on museums and museum-like institutions, particularly of a botanical nature. She is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Museums and Social Issues* and has served as an advisor to a variety of civic and community organizations. Most of her work in recent years has centered on developing unorthodox ways to help people experience and care for the natural world, with a special interest in artistic and technological media. Perry Mathewes, a

horticultural specialist, has overseen historic gardens at Tryon Place Historic Sites & Gardens, New Bern, North Carolina, developed educational programs at Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk, Virginia, and presented papers on the early British naturalist, explorer and writer John Lawson, as well as on historic gardens in the Carolinas. Mathewes' knowledge of historic gardens and gardening practices combined with expertise in current horticultural operations at historic sites will be of special interest.

Symposium participants will have the exceptional opportunity to view the art of contemporary artist-naturalists and discuss their work informally. The setting will shift to the Museum exhibition *Contemporary Artist-Naturalists: Robin Hill and Meg Page*. The first gallery walk will be led by renowned artist-naturalist Robin Hill whose early work was featured in a 1980's Smithsonian traveling exhibition benefiting the World Wildlife Fund, a model for combining art, conservation and science to "Team with Nature." Meg Page, a Maryland artist and conservationist will also provide insight into the tradition of the artist-naturalist as it appears in her work. A reception will be held.

To register, call 540-687-6542 ext. 10 or fill out the form online at www.nslm.org/symposium. \$35.00 members, \$50.00 non-members. Limited seating.

—Mickey Gustafson



David and Barbara Roux with artist John Bryan at their dinner for the NSLM on Friday, September 6, 2013.



Directors of the National Sporting Library & Museum

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June M. Ruhsam

Mrs. June M. Ruhsam, a former NSL librarian, passed away August 15. She was 91.

Mrs. Ruhsam served as librarian under Alexander Mackay-Smith 1978-1979 and under Peter Winants 1991-1992. She returned to volunteer at the Library after the new building opened in 1999 taking charge of the periodical collection and assisting researchers. Her knowledge of the collection and its culture proved invaluable time and again. Mrs. Ruhsam was named the 2001 NSL Volunteer of the Year in appreciation of her dedication and work.

She also served as school librarian at Highland School in Warrenton, and later at Wakefield Country Day School near Flint Hill, Virginia. She and her late husband Harry E. Ruhsam lived in The Plains, Virginia, for 40 years. They raised their family on their farm and raised Thoroughbred horses and Angus cattle.

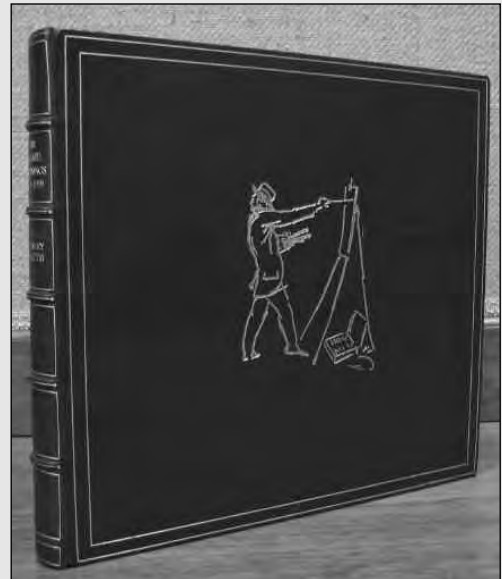
Mrs. Ruhsam was the daughter of a cavalry officer. She shared stories with Library staff of her childhood riding cavalry horses on base and going through some of the same training as the officers. She rode in college and took up showing and foxhunting when she settled in Virginia.

Mrs. Ruhsam is survived by her three children Harry M. Ruhsam of St. Augustine, Florida; Josephine "Joey" P. Ruhsam of Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Jonathan L. Ruhsam of Wellsville, Pennsylvania; three grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Mrs. Mars Donation

Mrs. Jacqueline B. Mars recently donated to the Library *A Centenary Tribute, Sir Alfred Munnings 1878-1959: An Appreciation of the Artist and a Selection of His Paintings*, by Stanley Booth, London: Sotheby Parke Bernet Publications, 1978. Bound in full red morocco by Zaehnsdorf, London, this deluxe Edition is #15 of 100 copies, signed by Booth. The book contains several plates of Munnings' works rarely seen and not included in the trade edition.



Mrs. Ohrstrom Gift

Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom, Jr., fully and generously supported major improvements to the Library building this summer. Her special contribution enabled the replacement of the carpet on all three floors and major repairs to the roof over the workroom. Please stop by to see our exciting improvements. Many thanks to Mrs. Ohrstrom!

Breslauer Foundation Grant Enables Rare Book Acquisition

The B. H. Breslauer Foundation granted the NSLM the funds to purchase *École impériale de cavalerie*, Saumur: Chez Javaud, [1869], from auction at Christie's Paris on April 29.

The riding school at Saumur, France, is historically important to the development of academic equestrian education in the modern era. *École impériale de cavalerie* will greatly enhance the NSLM's collection of material on the history of equitation, particularly the French influence.

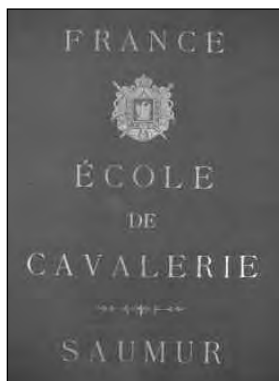
The Saumur School of Cavalry provided training for officers and non-commissioned officers. Academic equitation was based on the teachings of François Robichon de la Guérinière (1688-1751), who served as the French riding master to King Louis XV (1710-1774) and is the author of *École de Cavalerie* (held by the NSLM) first published 1731. Today, the academy is known as the National School of Equitation and is home of the Cadre Noir, an equestrian display troop of uniformed riders founded in 1828.

Felix de Marez Oyens, President of the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, was on hand at the Christie's sale and took the opportunity to view the book before going to the auction block. "I looked at the copy and am confident that you will be very pleased with it," he wrote in an email.

École impériale de cavalerie consists of thirteen hand-colored lithographs depicting horses and riders performing individually, in groups, formation training, jumping, steeplechasing and the day's end reward – galloping out in the countryside stag hunting with a pack of hounds.

The new acquisition is housed in the NSLM's F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room and is available to be seen by appointment.

—Lisa Campbell



École impériale de cavalerie, Saumur: Chez Javaud, [1869]

2013-2014 Exhibitions and Events

Events

Saturdays, 2:00 p.m., Curatorial
Talk in the Museum

Sunday Sketch, Visit www.nslm.org
for schedule

October 22, 2013, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Lecture and Book Signing
7:00 p.m. Lecture by Alastair
Jackson, *A Short History of
Foxhunting*, by Alastair Jackson and
Michael Clayton. Introduction by
Lt. Col. Robert N. Ferrer, Jr. (USMC-
Ret), MFH

October 30, 2013, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Lecture and Book Signing
7:00 Talk by Philip Dutton, *Modern
Eventing with Phillip Dutton: The
Complete Resource: Training,
Conditioning, and Competing in All
Three Phases*. Introduction by Paul
Cronin

November 7, 2013

"Object Truths: Why the Library
Matters," "Treasures from the Rare
Book Room Lecture" by Michael
Suarez, director of Rare Book
School at University of Virginia, Ivy
Circle and Chairman's Council

November 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

NSLM Symposium "Perspectives
on Teaming with Nature," Thomas
E. Lovejoy, Eleanor Jones Harvey,
Gerald Adelman, James Prosek,
Lisa Roberts, Perry Mathewes,
Robin Hill and Meg Page

December 5, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Lecture, George Mason University
President Ángel Cabrera
Ivy Circle, Chairman's Council and
Guardians, Library

Exhibitions

September 28, 2013 – March 23, 2014

Angling in the Western World,
Museum

October 12 – February 23, 2014

Contemporary Artist-Naturalists:
Robin Hill and Meg Page, Museum

October 25, 2013 – January 30, 2014

Teaming with Nature: James Prosek,
Library

Louis XV and the Hunt

by Julie Ann Plax

I want to thank the National Sporting Library and its friendly and knowledgeable staff, especially Rick Stoutamyer and Lisa Campbell for the opportunity to work productively as a John H. Daniels Fellow in Middleburg for the month of October, 2012. My area of research is at once remote from and immediate to the Library and its surroundings: Louis XV and the hunt.

Louis XV was so avid a hunter that some accused him of loving the hunt to the exclusion of governing and romance! Clearly, Louis XV did not view hunting the stag an average of three times a week as a character flaw, for in 1739 he commissioned Jean-Baptiste Oudry to design a monumental tapestry series documenting the rituals of the *chasse à courre*. The nine-piece series, titled *Les Chasses Royales*, was woven at the Gobelins tapestry between 1736 and 1753, and Louis XV displayed them at his favorite hunting chateau at Compiègne. The tapestry series, the type of hunt it represents, and the hunt's meaning in the eighteenth century were my subjects.

The Library has a rich collection of eighteenth-century French hunting manuals that describe in detail both the theory and practice of hunting. I had the privilege to consult original editions of such important works as Robert Salnove's *La Venèrie Royale* (1665), the first work to thoroughly address the practice of the royal hunt, and Antoine del Briffardière Gaffet's *Nouveau Traité de Venerie* (1742), a treatise written by one of Louis's hunt officers. Rick and Lisa introduced me to other works as well and allowed me to peruse the holdings in the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room with their help. I found many new avenues of research, including eighteenth-century sources on the care and training of hunting dogs and horses.

My research as a John H. Daniels Fellow helped me to understand the highly ritualized nature of the royal hunts and consequently, what was being represented in the tapestries. In 1699 Colbert legally reserved stag hunting with dogs as an exclusive privilege of the king and the royal family because it was considered to be the most noble type of hunt. A rigid protocol and a number of ceremonies



Julie Ann Plax

marked it. For example, there was the "booting" ceremony, where gentlemen of the chamber assisted the king in putting on his hunting boots, which one of the tapestries, I discovered, represents. I also identified two other tapestries as representing the final ceremony of the hunt, the *forhu*, named after the call sounded on the hunting horn to recall the dogs. The *forhu* was the ritual of butchering the stag and rewarding the dogs for their good work. The hide of the stag was placed on the ground and the entrails placed upon it for the dogs to enjoy. In one of the tapestries we see the dogs at their reward, and two dogs flanking the stag's head. I learned that the bloodhound that discovered the scent of the stag and another dog that had performed particularly well would be "introduced" to the stag's head as a ceremonial honor.

One of the high points of my stay in Middleburg, my good fortune in being able to add personal practice to theory, was my invitation to follow an actual fox hunt. The beauty of the sport, of the Virginia landscape, and of a perfect autumn day were luminous and illuminating. I am extremely grateful for the hospitality extended to me by the hunt and for the many opportunities and kindnesses extended to me by the Library staff and everyone associated with the Daniels Fellowship.

Julie Anne Plax is a Professor of Art History, University of Tucson, whose book project is "J.B. Oudry's Tapestry Series Les Chasses Royales, the Chasse à Courre and Royal Identity."

John H. Daniels Fellowship Recipients 2013-2014

Dean Allen, Ph.D., Department of Sports Management, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa "'English' Sport in America: Locating the Hidden Diaspora."

Andrew C. Baker, Harrisburg, Virginia, doctoral candidate in History, Rice University, "Suburbanizing the Countryside: Politics, the Environment and Metropolitan Expansion in the Modern South."

Kathleen Crandell, Ph.D., Equine Nutrition, "An Historical Perspective on Equine Feeding Management."

Charles List, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, New York, "The Wholesome Machinery of Excitement: The Evolution of the Sportsman Thesis from Gentleman to Conservationists."

Jonathan Silverman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Massachusetts, "Reading the Racetrack: Understanding Horse Racing Culture and History."

Brian Tyrell, graduate student, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, California, "Breeding the Bluegrass: Thoroughbred Breeding, Land Use, and Place in Kentucky."

Philip Wedge, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, English Department, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, "Saving the Best of the Coveys: Sport in the Novels of Jane Austen."

Contemporary Artist–Naturalists: Robin Hill & Meg Page

The exhibition *Contemporary Artist-Naturalists: Robin Hill & Meg Page*, on view from October 12, 2013 – February 23, 2014, highlights two artists who are both deeply connected to the natural world and continue in the spirit of the likes of Dürer, Catesby, Wilson and Audubon rendering fauna and flora from near and far. The selection of naturalist paintings by Hill and Page of animals composed with native plant-life often against minimalist backgrounds are masterful interpretations distinguishing them from their peers and raising them to the level of their forerunners. Unlike their predecessors, however, who oftentimes found themselves cataloguing new species in a lush, abundant, and untouched environment, Hill and Page face the modern issue of documenting and preserving wildlife in a diminishing habitat.

Robin Hill's career as an internationally recognized artist, naturalist and author spans over five decades. His involvement in conservation efforts began in Australia in the 1960s, and since then he has observed and painted a wide variety of avian species in Africa, Australia, Great Britain, Europe as well as America. While he also paints mammals and portraits, this exhibition features the bird paintings for which he is best known. "Early on, when I first realized that I wanted to paint birds seriously, I made the decision about 'birds in the landscape,'" he said. "An artist makes Art of any subject."

Maryland-native Meg Page, a fine art graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, too, has strong ties to conservation, and in her career spanning over thirty years, she has continually found inspiration in the countryside. She says of her diverse animal subjects that, "Art dedicated to the preservation of the natural landscape, wild species, and heritage breeds was the foundation of my working career and a life-long passion."

Both Hill and Page display acute powers of observation and a focus on the aesthetic aspects of nature with a meticulous sense of detail. While their styles are separate and distinct, their work celebrates the intrinsic beauty of the natural world and echoes the past while lending a fresh perspective. It is this painterly balance between reality and sensitivity that defines them, and the classic and timeless efforts of the artist-naturalist.

Robin Hill will give a public lecture and Meg Page will give a gallery talk October 17, 2013. They also will present gallery talks as a part of the November 16, 2013, symposium "Perspectives on Teaming with Nature."

—Claudia Pfeiffer

Teaming with Nature: James Prosek

The Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall will feature work by James Prosek, from October 25, 2013 - January 30, 2014. On public display for the first time are selected watercolors painted by contemporary artist, writer, naturalist and conservationist James Prosek for the latest edition of his book *Trout of the World*, issued March 2013. The watercolors are presented with rare books selected by Prosek from the NSLM collection that illustrate the legacy he honors and challenges. *Trout of the World* led Prosek to undertake a naming inquiry that has confronted 19th century ideas of taxonomy in favor of seeing a more fluid world that emphasizes diversity.

—Mickey Gustafson



Photographer Jesse Freidin spoke about "Contemporary Hunters and Their Dogs" at the September 5, 2013, Reception and Open House. Pictured are Jesse Freidin and Claudia Pfeiffer, curator.

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The 2013 Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council

The National Sporting Library & Museum wishes to recognize and thank the following Ivy Circle members whose donations are \$5,000 and above, and the Chairman's Council members whose donations are \$2,500 and above as of September 6, 2013. These contributions form the foundation of financial support for the NSLM's operations. We are grateful for gifts at all levels, and we thank our many donors and friends.

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